

MARVEL

#2

Doctor Strange

NICK SPENCER
DONNY CATES
SZYMON KUDRANSKI
DAN BROWN

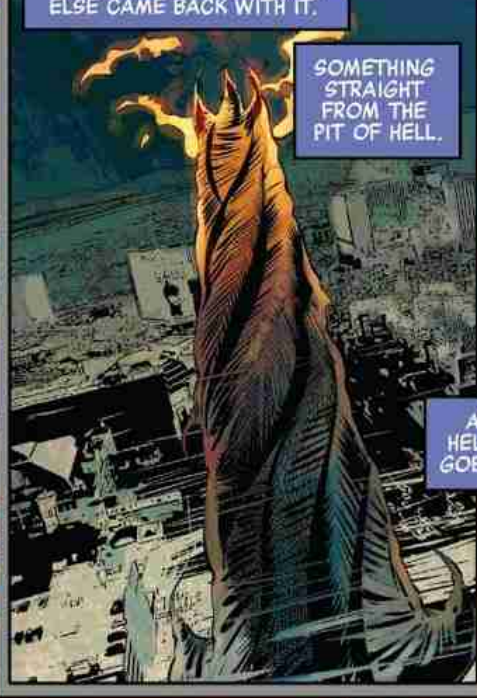




IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THIS ALL STARTED WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS.

I HAD PLANNED TO RESURRECT LAS VEGAS FROM THE ASHES, AND IT WORKED! I REALLY FEEL LIKE I NEED TO POINT THAT OUT. EVEN IF, ADMITTEDLY, THERE WERE SOME HICCUPS--

--NAMELY, THAT SOMETHING ELSE CAME BACK WITH IT.



SOMETHING STRAIGHT FROM THE PIT OF HELL.

AND WHERE HELL GOES...SO GOES MEPHISTO.



WHEN THE CITY WAS DESTROYED, IT FELL TO HIS REALM. AND WHEN I BROUGHT IT BACK HE WAS...NOT THRILLED.



HIS CORRUPTING INFLUENCE SPREAD ACROSS THE CITY, TEMPTING EVERYONE IN IT INTO SIN, AND THEN PUNISHING THEM FOR IT.

SO THIS IS HOW I FOUND MYSELF PLAYING CARDS AGAINST THE DEVIL, WITH THE FATE OF MILLIONS AT STAKE.



AND WITH SO MUCH ON THE LINE, I DID THE ONLY THING ANY SENSIBLE PERSON WOULD DO...

I CHEATED.



TURNED OUT ABOUT AS WELL AS YOU'D EXPECT.

APPARENTLY MEPHISTO LIKES TO DEAL WITH CHEATERS THE SAME WAY ANY OLD-SCHOOL CASINO BOSS WOULD--

--GETTING ONE OF HIS ENFORCERS TO BREAK MY LEGS.



HIS "ENFORCERS" IN THIS CASE BEING A GROUP OF AVENGERS HE'S TURNED INTO GHOST RIDERS.

WHICH, YES, AGAIN, IS TECHNICALLY MY FAULT--



BUT MAYBE NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO RUB THAT IN.

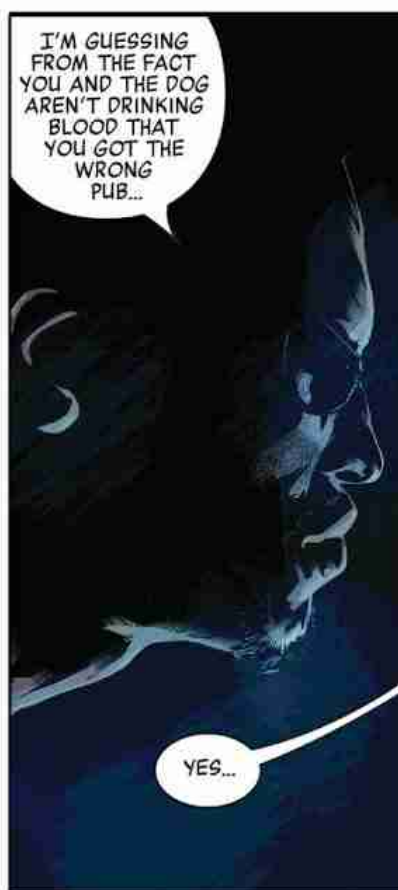
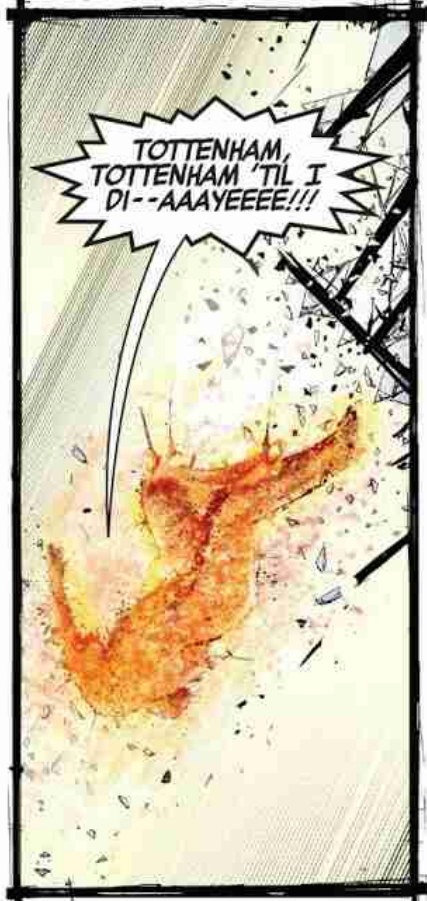
MAYBE NOW, I COULD USE SOME FRIENDLY ASSISTANCE--



--TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS LEFT.

OKAY, WONG, MUCH AS I LOVE SPENDING TIME IN ANY COUNTRY WHERE DOGS GET TO SIT AT BARS-- WHY AM I SITTING AT A BAR AGAIN?

I TOLD YOU, BATS-- I WILL HELP STEPHEN, EVEN IF HE MIGHT PREFER I DIDN'T. BUT MEPHISTO IS A POWERFUL ENEMY. WE WILL NEED HELP TO DEFEAT HIM--



**THE MISTY
MOUNTAINS OF
WUNDAGORE.**

WE
UNDERSTAND
HOW IMPORTANT
YOUR WORK IS,
YES--AND WE
DO HATE TO
INTRUDE--

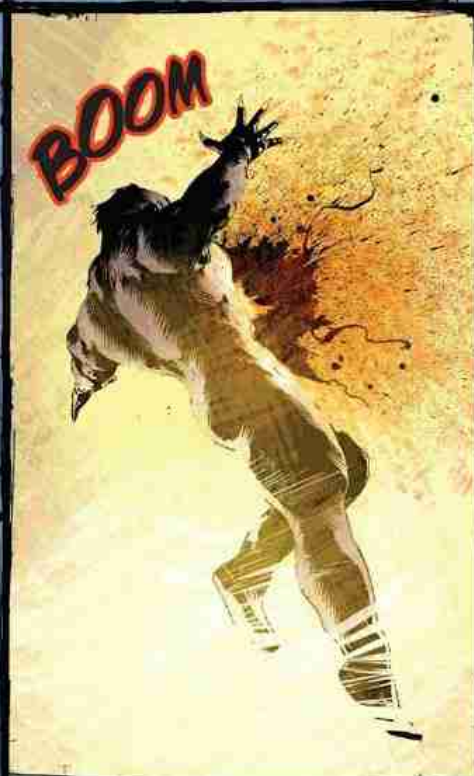
YEAH,
YOU LOOK
PRETTY
BUSY.



CAN'T
ARGUE WITH
THAT.

LAS VEGAS
IS IN TURMOIL--THE
PEOPLE ARE TEARING
THEMSELVES APART IN
THE STREETS.

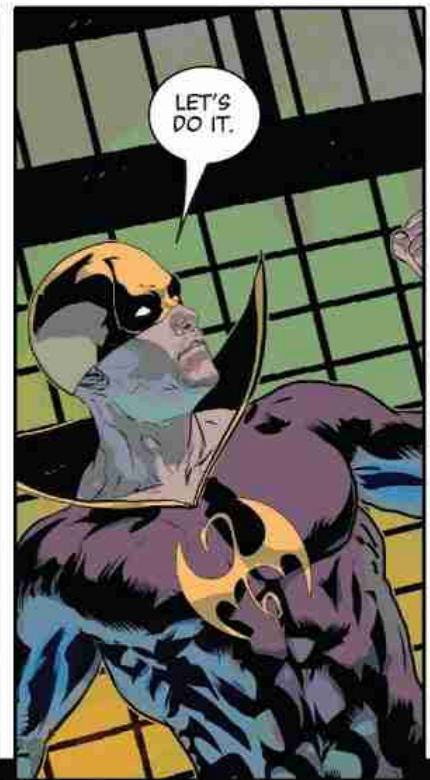
AND
THAT'S NOT
EVEN GETTIN'
INTO THE
DEMONS--



SOMEBODY
SAID DEMONS,
YEAH?

WELL, DON'T
WORRY, BOYS--
ELSA BLOODSTONE'S
GONNA FIX YOU UP.
RIGHT AFTER A LONG,
HOT SHOWER.

**ELSA
BLOODSTONE.**
MONSTER HUNTER.
GROSS.



**OUTSIDE
CITRUSVILLE,
FLORIDA.**

I CAME HERE
TO RECONNECT WITH
THE EARTH--TO FIND
SOME PEACE IN THE
INTERCONNECTEDNESS
OF THE LIFE
CYCLES.

I UNDERSTAND,
DOCTOR VOODOO.
AND WHO BETTER
TO HELP YOU
WITH THAT--

JERICO DRUMM.
BROTHER VOODOO, A
VERY STRANGE DOCTOR.

--THAN
THE LEGENDARY
MAN-THING.

ONE THING
PERPLEXES ME,
THOUGH--I THOUGHT
HE HAD LEARNED TO
SPEAK AGAIN?

MAN-THING.
GIANT-SIZED.

HE HAS SINCE LOST
THE ABILITY TO SPEAK.
WE COMMUNICATE
THROUGH THE
MOVEMENTS
OF NATURE. THE
WIND IN THE TREES,
THE CURRENTS OF
THE SWAMP.

AND WHAT
IS HE SAYING TO
YOU NOW?

HE
SAYS--

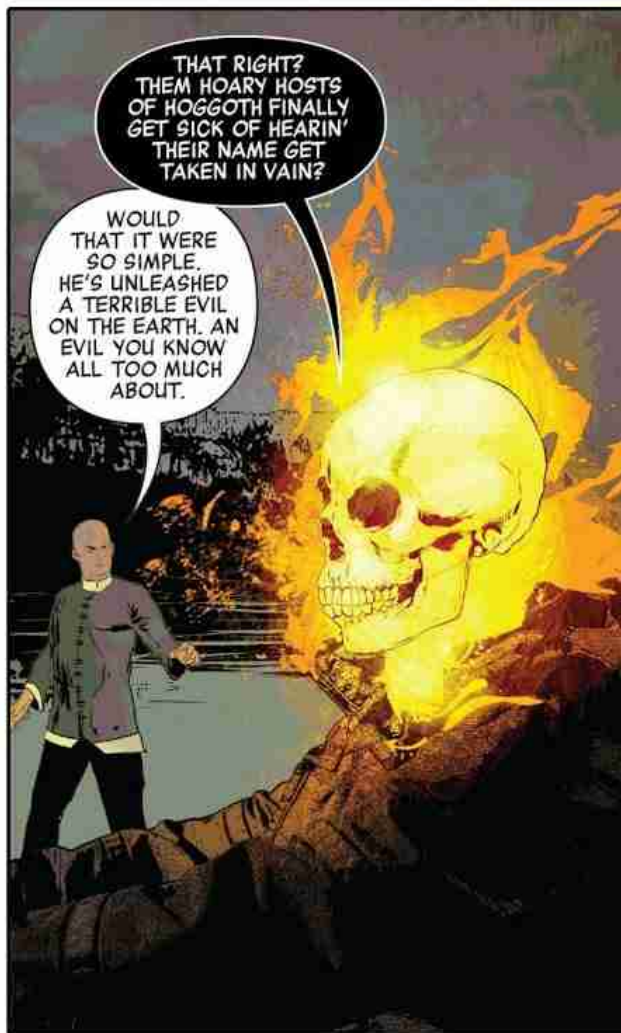
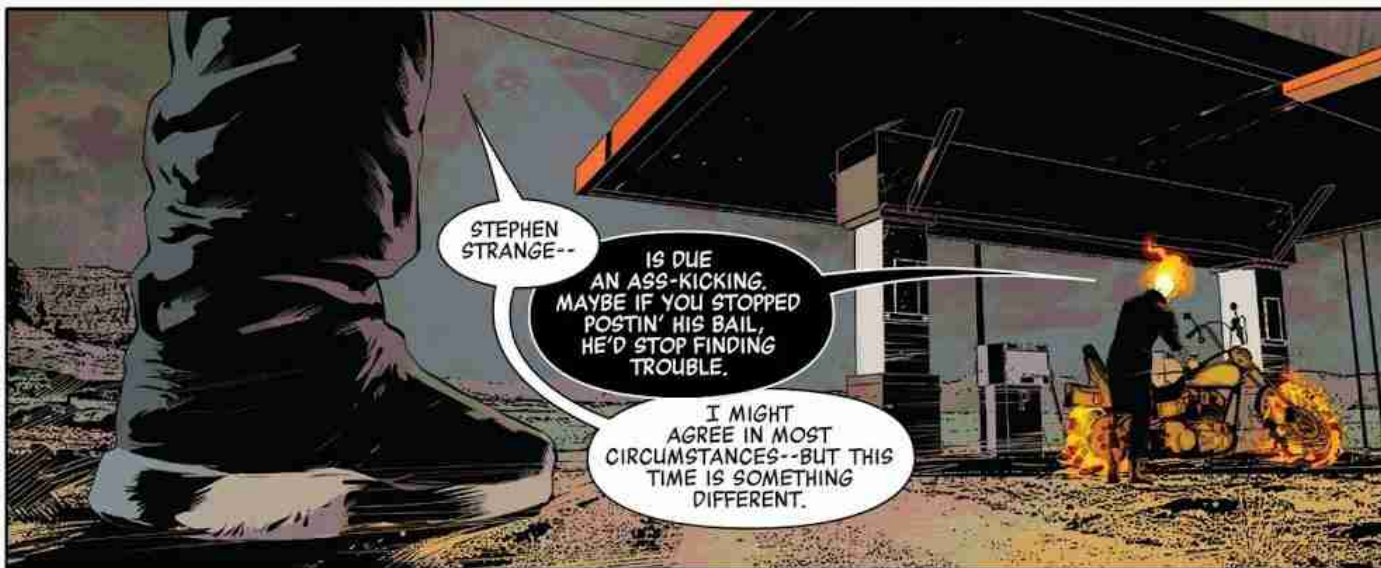
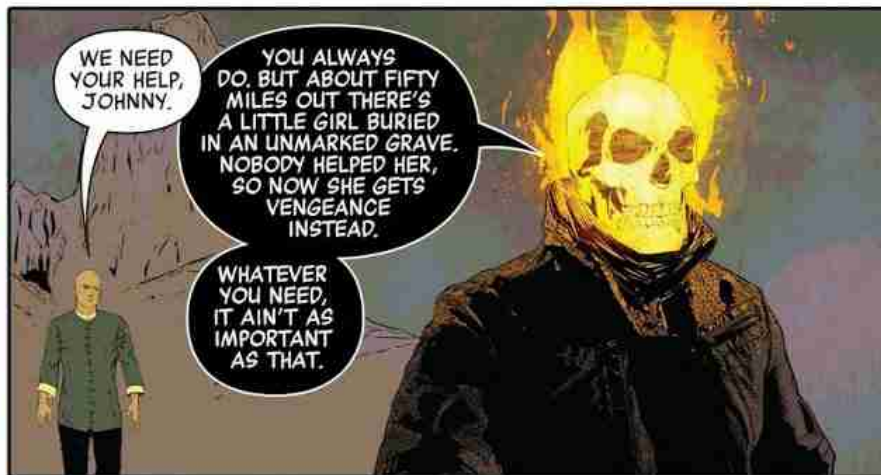
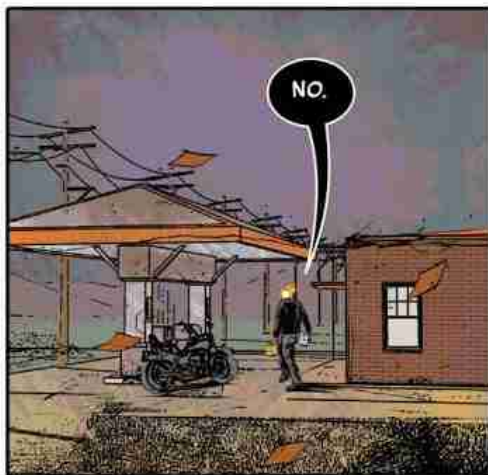
--HE'D LIKE
FOR YOUR DOG TO
STOP URINATING
ON HIS LEG.

I CAN'T
HELP IT! IT'S
INSTINCT!

WOW--THAT
SURE IS A WHOLE
LOTTA RIDICULOUS, WONG.
WE GOT THE WHOLE
GANG YET?

NOT YET,
BATS--









AS I'VE MENTIONED TO ALL OF YOU, STEPHEN ATTEMPTED TO RESURRECT LAS VEGAS, AND IN SO DOING, SUMMONED MEPHISTO INTO OUR REALM.

SINCE THEN, HIS INFLUENCE HAS BEGUN TO SPREAD. IT APPEARS ANY MINOR SIN OR INFRACTION IS BEING MET WITH THE FORFEIT OF ONE'S SOUL.



AS SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE AVENGERS, NAMELY BLACK PANTHER, CAPTAIN MARVEL, HAWKEYE, FALCON AND THOR, CAN NOW SADLY ATTEST.



THEY'LL BE OUR FIRST MAJOR OBSTACLE. I'VE OUTLINED EACH ONE OF YOUR ASSIGNMENTS IN THE FOLDERS IN FRONT OF YOU. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ OVER THEM CARE--

YEAH, HEY, HOLD UP.

JOHNNY?



I KNOW IT'S SLIGHTLY OFF-BRAND, BUT... WASN'T THE DOC HANGING OUT WITH THE SENTRY LATELY?

THAT... FEELS LIKE IT COULD BE USEFUL.





I HAVE CHOSEN YOU ALL FOR A REASON. YOU ARE ALL...FOR THE MOST PART... WELL, EITHER DEAD, DAMNED, OR YOU CARRY DARKNESS WITH YOU.

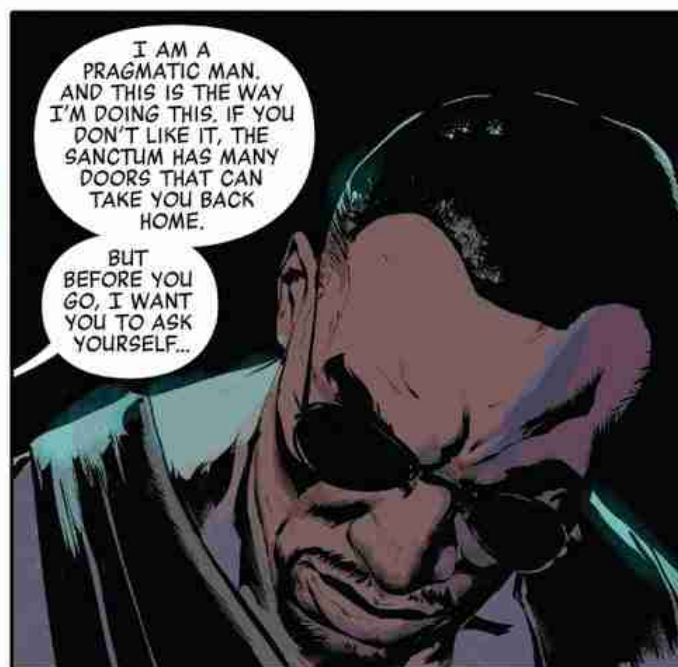
NONE OF YOU ARE WITHOUT SIN.



I CHOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE OF FIGHTING MEPHISTO WITHOUT ADDING TO HIS RANKS.

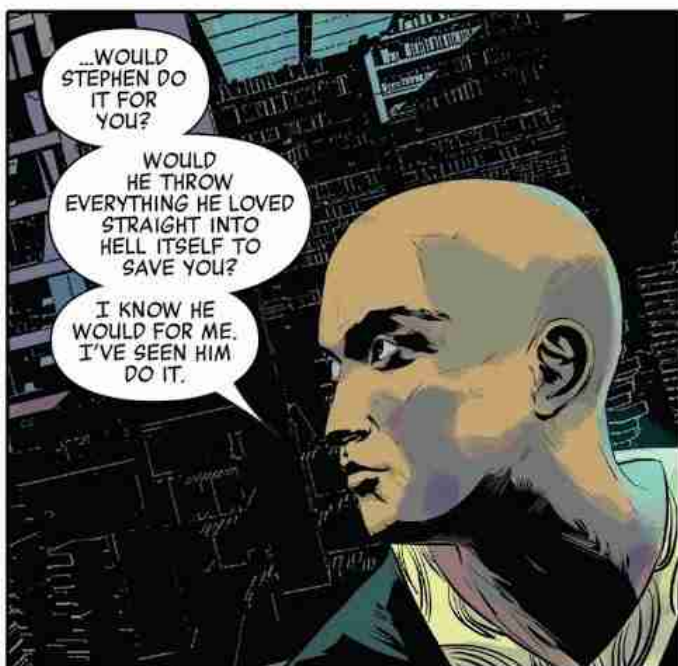


AND, IF I'M BEING COMPLETELY HONEST, I CHOSE YOU BECAUSE, IF YOU DO GET TURNED, I BELIEVE IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO BRING YOU DOWN BEFORE YOU HURT OTHERS.



I AM A PRAGMATIC MAN. AND THIS IS THE WAY I'M DOING THIS. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THE SANCTUM HAS MANY DOORS THAT CAN TAKE YOU BACK HOME.

BUT BEFORE YOU GO, I WANT YOU TO ASK YOURSELF...



...WOULD STEPHEN DO IT FOR YOU?

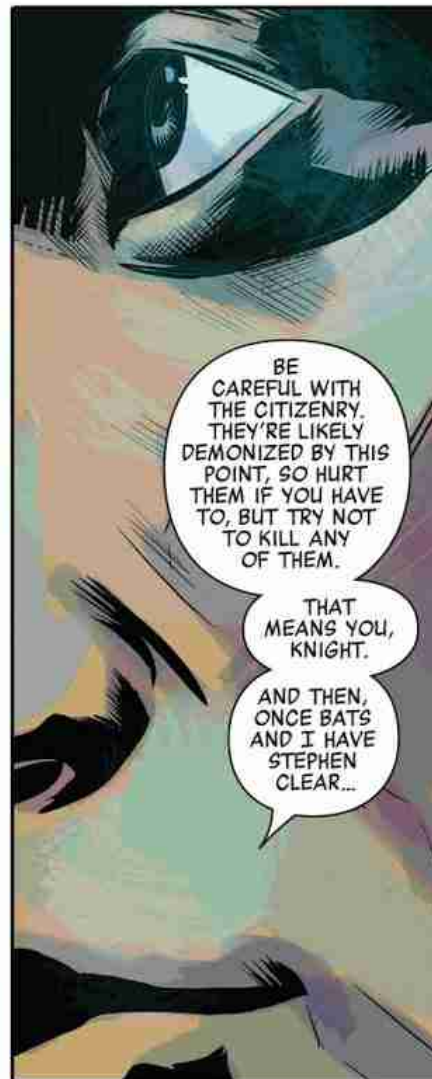
WOULD HE THROW EVERYTHING HE LOVED STRAIGHT INTO HELL ITSELF TO SAVE YOU?

I KNOW HE WOULD FOR ME. I'VE SEEN HIM DO IT.

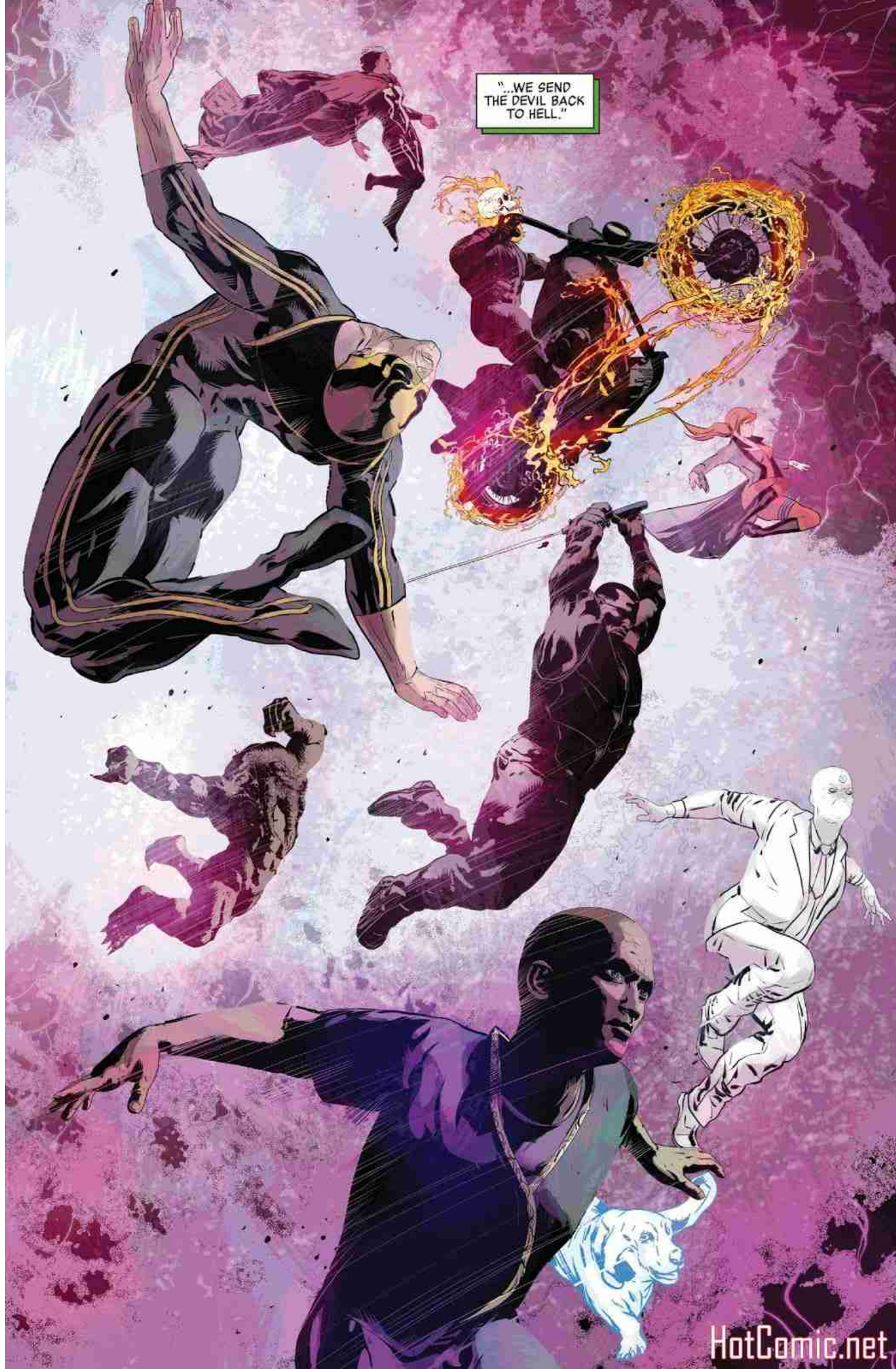


I WILL GO IN ALONE IF I HAVE TO.

BUT...I REALLY HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO.



"...WE SEND
THE DEVIL BACK
TO HELL."









...OR IS
IT RAINING
FIRE?



BEHIND
ME! NOW!



AGH!

DAMN!

THEY'RE
IMMUNE TO
MY MAGIC! WE
NEED TO FALL
BACK!

AGREED.
BUT WHERE WE
GONNA FALL
BACK TO...



...THAT'S
SAFE FROM
THEM?



A CEMENT TRUCK?
WHO WOULD BE MAD
ENOUGH TO--

ALL RIGHT,
EVERYONE.
HURRY!



COME ON--
THAT ISN'T
GONNA KEEP
THEM DOWN
FOR VERY
LONG.

BUT YOU'LL
ALL BE SAFE
WITH ME!

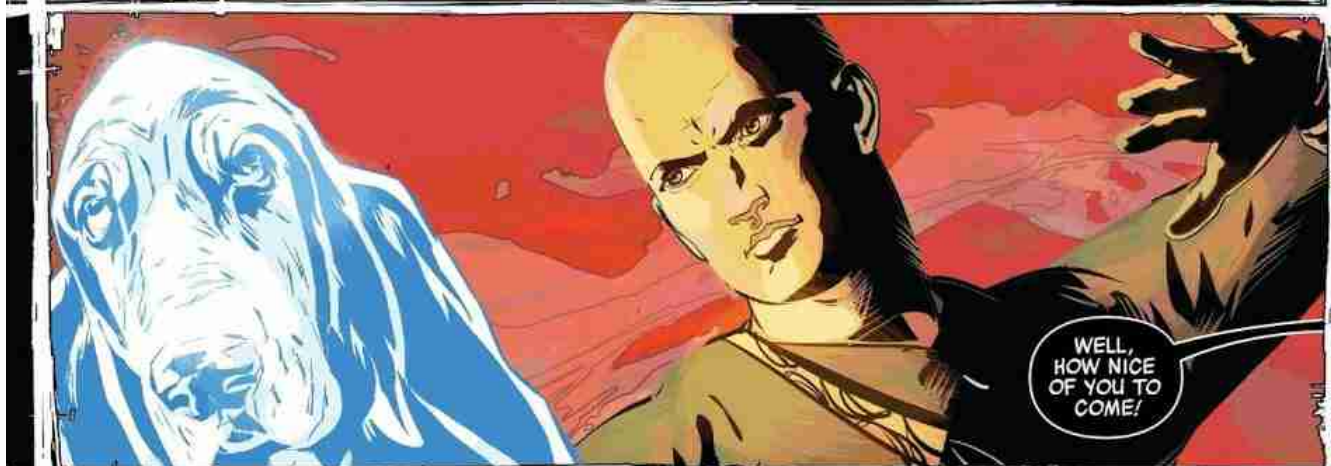
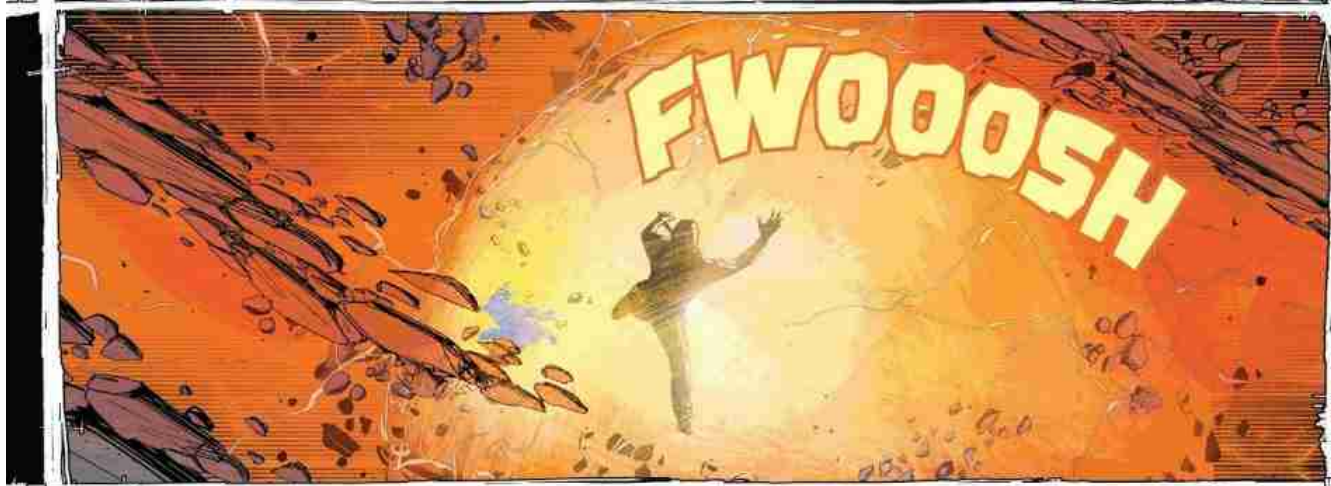
THE SCARLET SPIDER.
FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD
SPIDER-CLONE.



WHAT?
I LIVE
HERE.



HEY,
WHERE'S
WONG?





WELCOME
TO HELL, OLD
FRIEND.

...STEPHEN?!

TO BE CONTINUED!

TO FIND OUT HOW STEPHEN
BECAME A GHOST RIDER, CHECK
OUT **DOCTOR STRANGE #387!**

HotComic.net



DOCTOR STRANGE
SORCERER SUPREME WITH SOMETHING TO PROVE.



MEPHISTO
RULER OF A REALM OF HELL; COLLECTOR OF SOULS, CORRUPTOR OF GOOD.



WONG
A POWERFUL MYSTIC AND STEPHEN'S LONGTIME FRIEND AND ASSISTANT. WONG RECENTLY LEFT HIS POST OVER AN ETHICAL DISAGREEMENT.



BATS
A VERY COOL BOY, BATS DIED WHILE PROTECTING STEPHEN STRANGE, SO LOKI RESURRECTED HIM AS A GHOST.



BLADE
A.K.A. ERIC BROOKS. PARTIALLY INFECTED WITH VAMPIRISM AT BIRTH WHEN HIS MOTHER WAS BITTEN, BLADE HUNTS CREATURES OF THE NIGHT.



ELSA BLOODSTONE
DAUGHTER OF A ONCE-IMMORTAL, NOW-DEAD MONSTER HUNTER, ELSA INHERITED HER FATHER'S JOURNALS, BLOODGEM POWERS AND VOCATION.



IRON FIST
A.K.A. DANNY RAND. ORPHANED MILLIONAIRE DANNY WAS RAISED IN THE IMMORTAL CITY K'UN-LUN, AND WON THE MYSTICAL POWER OF THE IRON FIST.



MOON KNIGHT
A.K.A. MARC SPECTOR/JAKE LOCKLEY/STEVEN GRANT/MR. KNIGHT. EX-MERCENARY DISCIPLE OF THE EGYPTIAN MOON GOD KHONSHU.



DOCTOR VODOO
A.K.A. JERICHO DRUMM. FORMER PSYCHOLOGIST AND MASTER OF VODOODO MAGIC, JERICHO RECENTLY FOUGHT EVIL AS PART OF THE AVENGERS UNITY SQUAD.



M.O.D. THING
FORMERLY THEODORE SALLIS. VICTIM OF AN ACCIDENT MIXING SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM AND SWAMP MAGIC, GUARDIAN OF THE NEXUS OF ALL REALITIES, WHOEVER KNOWS FEAR BURNS AT HIS TOUCH.



GHOST RIDER
A.K.A. JOHNNY BLAZE. FORMER STUNT RIDER JOINED TO A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.



THE SCARLET SPIDER
A.K.A. BEN REILLY. RESURRECTED SPIDER-POWERED PETER PARKER CLONE, BEN'S BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH TO DRIVE ANYONE MAD, BUT HE'S TRYING TO BE GOOD.

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DOCTOR STRANGE

CREATED BY

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**FOLLOW THE ROAD TO DAMNATION NOW THROUGH APRIL IN THE PAGES OF
DOCTOR STRANGE: BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER; IRON FIST;
& DAMNATION: JOHNNY BLAZE GHOST RIDER**

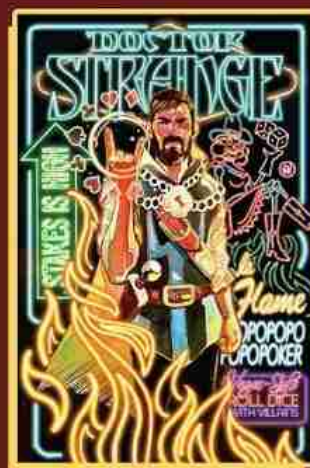
DOCTOR STRANGE: DAMNATION 3



BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER 15



DOCTOR STRANGE 387



IRON FIST 78



